

# The Formal Cleanup Process

(under Washington's Model Toxics Control Act)

## Initial Investigation

When a contaminated site is discovered by Ecology or reported by another source, Ecology conducts an initial investigation. Based on this investigation Ecology determines if the site requires additional investigation, emergency cleanup, or no further action.



## Site Hazard Assessment & Hazard Ranking

An assessment is conducted to confirm the presence of hazardous substances and to determine the relative risk the site poses to human health and the environment. Sites are given a hazard ranking on a scale of 1 to 5. A score of 1 represents the highest level of risk and 5 the lowest.



## Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

These two distinct but related studies are usually performed at the same time. They are intended to:

- Gather the data necessary to determine the type and extent of contamination;
- Establish criteria for cleaning up the site; and
- Identify and screen cleanup alternatives.

**A draft of the study is made available for public review and comment before it is finalized.**



## Cleanup Action Plan

This document describes which cleanup methods will be used at the site and specifies cleanup standards and other requirements at the site. The *cleanup action plan* is based on information generated during the *remedial investigation/feasibility study* and public comments and community concerns.

**A draft of the plan is made available for public review and comment before it is finalized.**



## Engineering Design Report

The *engineering design report* details the specific engineering concepts and design criteria for the cleanup alternative described in the *cleanup action plan*.



## Site Cleanup

Construction, operation and monitoring of cleanup actions.

